

## MR. LITTLEFIELD'S VIEWS.

The Stalwart Representative From Maine a Leading Figure in the Thompson Party—Impressions of Tuskegee—His Speech a Keynote.

While each of the visiting delegation took part in the speechmaking and several conversed with many persons, perhaps the member that made the most profound impression upon the South during this tour was Representative Charles E. Littlefield, of Maine's Second Congressional District. In fact a Presidential boom was sprung for him by Col. Thompson in a witty speech. Mr. Littlefield is a native of Maine and has held many offices of responsibility in that State, having been speaker of the House of Representatives and attorney general. He succeeded Nelson Dingley in Congress in 1899, and at a bound leap-



Hon. Charles E. Littlefield.

ed into a position of leadership by his comprehensive grasp of large National questions. His address on Negro suffrage here not long ago attracted a great deal of attention. His statement that conferring the suffrage upon the Negro just after the war was a mistake occasioned no little criticism. This, however, was not meant as a reflection upon the black man's capacity, for in a later communication, he held that he believed in an educational qualification for the elective franchise, applied without distinction of race or color, and that had this premium been placed upon intelligence at the outset the situation would have been far happier for both races and the whole South than is at present the case. The status of the Negro is not, he explains, any proof of his lack of inherent capacity for self government, but is due to the greed and ambition for power of a race that is able by superior advantages to hold the colored people down and thus perpetuate their own disproportionate control. Had the test for fitness been impartially applied at the time of reconstruction large numbers of the illiterate whites who are making restrictive laws offensive would have been excluded and the electorate would have enlarged gradually among both races according to their growth and intelligence. He does not believe the Fifteenth amendment will be repealed. This is a true statement of Mr. Littlefield's views and it is difficult for any candid reasoner to dispute his philosophical conclusions. He is now pledged to face the present vexed problems in a generous spirit and to demand for all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

## IMPRESSIONS AT TUSKEGEE.

Since visiting Tuskegee Mr. Littlefield expressed himself as more and more convinced that Booker Washington is working along the line that will more speedily and securely make for the Negro people a place in the ranks of our solid citizenry. Industrial education, integrity, force of character, and thrifty habits on the fundamentals of usefulness in the uplift of civilization and in inculcating these principles into the Negro youth, Mr. Littlefield is confident that Mr. Washington has struck the right chord for a harmonious solution of racial development. He was delighted with all he saw at Tuskegee and was particularly impressed with the strong personality of Mr. Washington himself. His address there bespeaks deep interest in the education and advancement of the race and as it is really the keynote of

the spirit that pervaded every action of the Thompson party. THE COLORED AMERICAN is pleased to present it in full. In introducing Hon. Charles E. Littlefield Mr. Washington spoke as follows:

"No name is more prominent in Congress and no man is more closely connected with all that is wise, brave and pure than the Honorable Charles E. Littlefield of the great State of Maine, whom I have great pleasure in introducing to you."

## SPEECH OF MR. LITTLEFIELD.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:—I do not suppose that it is necessary for me to say that it is with great and unalloyed pleasure that I stand here, if only for a few moments, to say a few words to the magnificent audience that is here assembled before me. I have heard of this institution and of its work. I have many times heard of the man who has been mainly instrumental in bringing about the magnificent results which are here illustrated in open books before me, with intelligence beaming upon every page. I know what his reputation throughout the land is as an orator, and I well recognize his great ability in the use of the pen, but there is the tongue of no orator nor the pen of any writer, although it be considered even a reflection upon the distinguished writer who presides over the destinies of this institution, that can put upon paper a record of the magnificent work which we have seen here to-day.

## HAS ACHIEVED PRACTICAL RESULTS.

It afforded me great pleasure to hear this distinguished man say—and when I say distinguished I use it without intent whatever as to distinction of race, color or creed—it afforded me pleasure I say, to hear him say that my distinguished colleague, whose magnificent and princely hospitality to my colleagues and myself we have so thoroughly enjoyed, is one of the benefactors of this institution. In my colleague's address, in the characterization of your president, he said that he was one who was the peer of any colored educator in the world. I propose to go him one better in characterizing Mr. Washington and his work, and want to say that he stands upon a par with the presidents of the best institutions in this or any other land. (Applause.) I say that Booker T. Washington, beginning in 1881 upon land that had nothing upon it, the ordinary land we see in driving about this country, with no buildings, with no equipment, and presenting to us to-day this institution with its splendid results and magnificent opportunities, stands on a par with the head of any institution in the land, for he has achieved practical results, beginning at the foundation and building the superstructure strong and sound and firm and eternal, a superstructure upon which the Republic must stand. (Applause.)

## THE GOSPEL OF WORK.

I think I can perhaps from a personal standpoint, in a sense, sympathize with the results which have been achieved here. I came from the far-off Eastern country, where the sun shines and the rains pour upon the just and the unjust, although it does not shine quite the length of time or quite as hot as it apparently does here. We have perhaps in our institutions and in our surroundings a different environment from that you have here, and yet in the main essentials we have the same. In the fundamental underlying idea we have practically the same.

Now just one word by way of personal reference, a thing I very seldom indulge in. As I was riding about here yesterday, being driven by one of your teachers in this school who was showing me your work, he called my attention to the residence of one of your preachers. He said that this preacher not only preached, but that he worked as well. That suggested to my mind a personal recollection. My father was a Free Will Baptist minister in Maine. He died at the age of eighty-one years. He was not only a minister but a mechanic and carpenter by trade; and I do not believe that he ever took in all his life, a vacation of more than six weeks all put together. And until he was sixty-five years of age he preached the gospel to the people and worked continuously at the same time. I knew something about labor at the age of fifteen; at that time I stood quite as tall as I stand now; I was not quite as large, but nearly as large as I am now, and I had for a father a man who was a carpenter, and it came more natural for me to use a saw and plane and a hammer than it did to

use a knife and fork to handle food upon the table, and while other boys enjoyed vacations, I worked at the carpenter's bench and traded from fifteen to twenty-three years of age. After I was eighteen I closed my school life in the common schools of Maine and worked continuously until I went into a law office at twenty-three. It was not eight hours work a day then—it was anywhere from ten to twelve a day. In the practice of the profession I have worked from fifteen to seventeen hours a day, and I know from experience that there is nothing worth having that can be acquired except by work, hard work, labor. (Applause.)

## OPPORTUNITY THE WORLD'S DEBT.

The world, it is sometimes said, owes every man a living. That is not so. The world does not owe every man a living. I will tell you what the world does owe every man and woman without distinction of race and color—it owes him an OPPORTUNITY TO WORK, an opportunity to earn a living. (Applause.) And it not only owes him an opportunity to work and earn a living, but it has a right to look to every man and woman, to every boy and girl in this and in every institution, to work and earn that living. Not only is there no royal road to learning, but there is no royal road to success, and it is for this reason that I most heartily concur and approve of the fundamental idea that I understand underlies the teaching in this institution—industrial education, industrial independence, and industrial character. There is nothing that can so advance the youth of any race as the kind of industrial education and industrial independence that I have seen illustrated to-day upon every hand. I not only would like to see this school duplicated throughout the South where our colored friends in such large numbers live, but I would like to see it duplicated in the section where I live and where I know the people for whom this kind of education, beginning at the very bottom, on the foundation, and building to the magnificent structure, would do good. Both races would be better off, much better off, with an abundance of such schools. (Applause.)

I shall not take the time to indulge in any discussion of any of the questions that concern us, except that I do say, in my judgment, the distinguished man who presides over this institution, and the other distinguished men who assist him in their various capacities, your officers and teachers, a corps numbering practically one hundred and more of the best and most magnificent material that can be secured anywhere who are carrying on this work, are BEGINNING AT THE RIGHT END of the solution of one of the greatest questions that since 1865—aye, since 1871, when the Constitution of the United States, the fundamental law that exists to-day, was adopted to protect in all the land the people of one language and one law and one destiny, has disturbed the country. It is the greatest question, perhaps, that has concerned the American people, and deserves from both races the most careful consideration and wise treatment and solution in the interests of a common people with a common destiny, because, my friends, we are all here—this is our country—and here in all probability we shall for all time remain. Our futures are intimately banded together. One cannot be carried down without dragging down the other. Education, industrial, secular and religious, is the one thing that will help us to solve the great problems of the hour. This has always been true and always will be true. Without education—industrial, secular and religious, in order that we must be an intelligent, law-abiding and God-fearing people, the destinies and liberties of the Republic are not secure.

## WHITTIER'S APT POEM.

I close these few suggestions with an extract from a poem by John G. Whittier, a man whose name is revered by all of the persons who are seated before me to-day—a poem, perhaps, that applies more particularly to the educational institutions in the portion of the country where I live, but has its broad catholicity of subject for the East, West, North and South—

The Southland boasts its teaming cane,  
The prairie West its heavy grain,  
And sunset's radiant gates unfold  
On rising marts and sands of gold!

Rough, bleak and hard, our little State  
Is scant of soil, of limits straight;  
Her yellow sands are sands alone,

IT IS A PITY SO FEW WOMEN  
Are Entirely Free From  
Pelvic Catarrh.

Miss Anna Carsten, Clayton, Ill.

Miss Anna Carsten, Clayton, Ill., says: "Your Peruna did me so much good. I believe I should have been dead by this time had I not used it. I am feeling so well now. I have not taken any medicine for four or five months. I can cheerfully recommend Peruna to my friends."

Everywhere the people, especially the women, are praising Peruna as a remedy for all forms of catarrhal difficulties.

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"During the past year I gradually lost flesh and strength until I was unable to perform my work properly. I tried different remedies, and finally Peruna was suggested to me. It gave me new life and strength. I cannot speak too highly of it."

The extreme sensitiveness of the mucous lining of every organ of a woman's body is well known to physicians. This explains why, in part at least, so few women are entirely free from catarrh. Peruna cures catarrh wherever it is located.

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Her only mines are ice and stone!

From Autumn frost to April rain,  
Too long her winter woods complain;  
From budding flower to falling leaf,  
Her summer time is all too brief.

Yet, on her rocks, and on her sands,  
And wintry hills, the school house  
stands,  
And what her rugged soil denies,  
The harvest of the mind supplies.

The riches of the Commonwealth  
Are free—strong minds, and hearts of  
health;  
And more to her than gold or grain,  
The cunning hand and cultured brain.

For well she keeps her ancient stock,  
The stubborn strength of Pilgrim Rock;  
And still maintain, with milder laws,  
The clearer light, the Good Old Clause!

Nor heeds the skeptic's puny hands,  
While near her school the church-spire  
stands,  
Nor fears the blinded bigot's rule,  
While near her church-spire stands the  
school.

## Get a Copy.

The second annual report of the National Negro Business League is out. It is new, interesting and gives a most accurate account of the last meeting of the League in August of last year in Chicago. These books are selling for the very small sum of thirty-five cents. Every member of the League should order one or more copies. Orders may be sent to Mr. S. Laing Williams, 113 Adams st., Chicago, Ill.